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PII: S1674-2052(22)00232-5

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molp.2022.07.012>

Reference: MOLP 1397

To appear in: *MOLECULAR PLANT*

Received Date: 11 February 2022

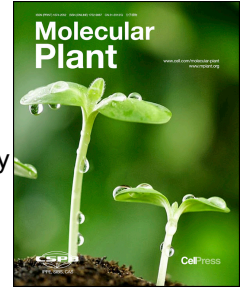
Revised Date: 15 June 2022

Accepted Date: 20 July 2022

Please cite this article as: Lin X., Olave-Achury A., Heal R., Pais M., Witek K., Ahn H.-K., Zhao H., Bhanvadia S., Karki H.S., Song T., Wu C.-h., Adachi H., Kamoun S., Vleeshouwers V.G.A.A., and Jones J.D.G. (2022). A potato late blight resistance gene protects against multiple *Phytophthora* species by recognizing a broadly conserved RXLR-WY effector. Mol. Plant. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molp.2022.07.012>.

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A potato late blight resistance gene protects against multiple *Phytophthora* species by recognizing a broadly conserved RXLR-WY effector

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Running Title: *Rpi-amr3* against multiple *Phytophthora* diseases

Short Summary: *Rpi-amr3* was cloned from *Solanum americanum*, it confers potato late blight resistance against multiple *Phytophthora infestans* isolates. Here we identified its corresponding Avr effector AVRamr3. AVRamr3 is widely conserved in *P. infestans* isolates as well as other *Phytophthora* species. The recognition of this conserved effector by *Rpi-amr3* led to resistance against other *Phytophthora* pathogens like *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora*.

Abstract

Species of the genus *Phytophthora* - the plant killer - cause disease and reduce yields in many crop plants. Although many *Resistance to Phytophthora infestans* (*Rpi*) genes effective against potato late blight have been cloned, few have been cloned against other *Phytophthora* species. Most *Rpi* genes encode nucleotide-binding, leucine-rich repeat- containing (NLR) immune receptor proteins, that recognize RXLR effectors. However, whether NLR proteins can recognize RXLR effectors from multiple *Phytophthora* species has rarely been investigated. Here, we identified a new RXLR-WY effector AVRamr3 from *P. infestans* that is recognized by *Rpi-amr3* from a wild Solanaceae species *Solanum americanum*. *Rpi-amr3* associates with AVRamr3 *in planta*. AVRamr3 is broadly conserved in many different *Phytophthora* species, and the recognition of AVRamr3 homologs by *Rpi-amr3* activates resistance against multiple *Phytophthora* pathogens, including the tobacco black shank disease and cacao black pod disease pathogens *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora*. *Rpi-amr3* is thus the first characterized resistance gene that acts against *P. parasitica* or *P. palmivora*. These findings suggest a novel path to redeploy known *R* genes against different important plant pathogens.

Key words: *Rpi-amr3*, AVRamr3, potato late blight, *Phytophthora* disease, RXLR-WY effector, *Solanum americanum*

1 Introduction

2

3 Species in the oomycete genus *Phytophthora* cause many devastating plant diseases. For
4 example, *P. infestans*, *P. parasitica*, *P. cactorum*, *P. ramorum*, *P. sojae*, *P. palmivora* and *P.*
5 *megakarya* cause potato and tomato late blight, tobacco black shank disease, strawberry crown
6 and leather rot, sudden oak death, soybean root and stem rot, and cacao black pod disease,
7 respectively. *P. infestans* and *P. sojae* infect few plant species, while others like *P. parasitica*,
8 *P. ramorum* and *P. palmivora* have a broad host range (Kamoun et al., 2015).

9

10 Plant immunity involves detection of pathogen-derived molecules by either cell-surface pattern
11 recognition immune receptors (PRRs) or intracellular nucleotide-binding domain, leucine-rich
12 repeat-containing (NLR) immune receptors, that activate either pattern-triggered immunity
13 (PTI) or effector-triggered immunity (ETI), respectively (Jones and Dangl, 2006). So far, more
14 than 20 Resistance to *P. infestans* (*Rpi*) genes were cloned from wild *Solanum* species that
15 confer resistance against potato late blight (Vleeshouwers et al., 2011). Several Resistance
16 genes against *P. sojae* (*Rps*) have also been mapped in different soybean accessions, and a few
17 were cloned^{4,5}. In tobacco, the black shank resistance genes *Phl*, *Php*, and *Ph* were genetically
18 mapped but not yet cloned; these confer race-specific resistance to *P. parasitica* (aka *P.*
19 *nicotianae*) isolates (Gallup and Shew, 2010; Bao et al., 2019). For *P. palmivora*, some
20 resistant cacao (*Theobroma cacao*) accessions were identified, but no dominant *R* genes have
21 been defined or cloned (Thevenin et al., 2012). In summary, apart from *Rpi* genes, very few *R*
22 genes against *Phytophthora* pathogens have been cloned.

23

24 *Solanum americanum* and *Solanum nigrum* are wild Solanaceae species and are highly resistant
25 to *P. infestans* (Witek et al., 2016; Witek et al., 2021). Two *Rpi* genes of coiled-coil (CC) type,

26 *Rpi-amr3* and *Rpi-amr1*, were cloned from different *S. americanum* accessions; both confer
27 late blight resistance in cultivated potato (Witek et al., 2016; Witek et al., 2021). *S. nigrum* is
28 a hexaploid species, that was thought to be a “non-host” plant of *P. infestans*. No *Rpi* gene had
29 been cloned from *S. nigrum* until we reported the functional *Rpi-amr1* homolog *Rpi-nigl*
30 (Witek et al., 2021).

31

32 In oomycetes, the recognized effectors are usually secreted RXLR (Arg-X-Leu-Arg, X
33 represents any amino acid)-EER (Glu-Glu-Arg) proteins that are translocated into plant cells
34 (Rehmany et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2019). Dozens of *Avirulence* (*Avr*) genes encoding
35 recognized effectors from *Phytophthora* species have been identified and they are typically
36 fast-evolving and lineage-specific molecules (Jiang et al., 2008). Recently, AVRamr1
37 (PITG_07569), the recognized effector of *Rpi-amr1* was identified by a cDNA pathogen
38 enrichment sequencing (PenSeq) approach (Lin et al., 2020). Surprisingly, AVRamr1
39 homologs were identified from *P. parasitica* and *P. cactorum* genomes and both are recognized
40 by all *Rpi-amr1* variants (Witek et al., 2021). Similarly, AVR3a-like effectors were found in
41 different *Phytophthora* species, including *P. capsici* and *P. sojae*, and the recognition of
42 AVR3a homologs correlates with *P. capsici* or *P. sojae* resistance in *Nicotiana* species and
43 soybean (Shan et al., 2004; Vega-Arreguín et al., 2014). Additionally, AVRblb2 homologs
44 from *P. andina* and *P. mirabilis* trigger HR with *Rpi-blb2* (Oliva et al., 2015). Remarkably, a
45 single N336Y mutation in R3a expands its recognition specificity to a *P. capsici* AVR3a
46 homolog (Segretin et al., 2014). These reports raise intriguing questions. Could RXLR
47 effectors be widely conserved molecules among different *Phytophthora* species? Could these
48 effectors be recognized by the same plant immune receptor? Of particular interest, could such
49 effector recognition capacity enables disease resistance?

50

51 Here we show *Rpi-amr3* confers resistance to all tested late blight isolates in both field and lab
52 conditions. We also identified AVR_{Ramr3}, a novel AVR protein from *P. infestans*, by screening
53 an RXLR effector library. AVR_{Ramr3} is a broadly conserved effector found in thirteen different
54 *Phytophthora* species. We also show functional *Rpi-amr3* genes are widely distributed among
55 *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum* accessions. The recognition of AVR_{Ramr3} not only enables
56 resistance to a wide range of *P. infestans* isolates, but also to other economically important
57 *Phytophthora* pathogens such as tobacco black shank disease and cacao black pod disease
58 pathogens *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora*. *Rpi-amr3* is the first reported *R* gene that confers
59 resistance against *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora*.

60

61 **Results:**

62 ***Rpi-amr3* confers late blight resistance in lab and field**

63

64 *Rpi-amr3* was cloned by SMRT-RenSeq and reported to confer resistance against two
65 *Phytophthora infestans* isolates 88069 and 06_3928A in a diploid potato line (Line 26, Solynta
66 B.V.) (Witek et al., 2016) in lab conditions. However, whether *Rpi-amr3* confers broad-
67 spectrum and field resistance to late blight was not reported.

68

69 To address this, we transformed *Rpi-amr3* with its native promoter and terminator into a
70 favoured UK potato cultivar *cv.* Maris Piper. Two lines (SLJ24895-5C and SLJ24895-9A)
71 (Figure S1B) were selected for a field experiment in 2017, and SLJ24895-5C was further tested
72 in the field in 2018 (Figure 1A). These field trials indicate that *Rpi-amr3* confers protection
73 against potato late blight in field conditions, while the wild-type Maris Piper control lines were
74 infected completely within ~3 weeks once disease symptoms appeared (Figure 1A and 1B). As
75 a result, the tuber yield of the *Rpi-amr3* transgenic lines was significantly higher than the wild-
76 type Maris Piper lines (Figure 1C and 1D). To determine the *P. infestans* genotypes present in
77 the field trial, the infected leaves were sampled and genotyped by SSR markers, most of the
78 isolates corresponded to a dominant UK strain 6_A1 (aka Pink6) (Table S1).

79

80 To further evaluate the resistance spectrum of *Rpi-amr3*, we performed detached leaf assay
81 (DLA) on SLJ24895-5C, with wild-type Maris Piper and *Rpi-amr1* transgenic Maris Piper as
82 controls. Seventeen *P. infestans* isolates with different origins and races were tested (Figure
83 1E and Table S2). Our results show that *Rpi-amr3* confers resistance against all tested isolates
84 in potato in lab conditions but with different efficacy, and *Rpi-amr3* mediated resistance is
85 weaker than *Rpi-amr1* in potato (Figure 1E). We also generated *Rpi-amr3* stably transformed
86 *N. benthamiana* lines. Two homozygous T2 lines #13.3 and #16.5 were tested with nine *P.*
87 *infestans* isolates. Both *Rpi-amr3* transgenic *N. benthamiana* lines confer complete resistance
88 to all tested *P. infestans* isolates (Table S2).

89

90 These data show that *Rpi-amr3* confers potato late blight resistance in both lab and field
91 conditions.

92

93 ***Avramr3* encodes a conserved RXLR-WY effector protein**

94

95 To identify the effector recognized by *Rpi-amr3*, we screened an RXLR effector library
96 (Rietman, 2011; Lin et al., 2020) of 311 RXLR effectors by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-
97 mediated co-expression with *Rpi-amr3* in *N. benthamiana*. Most of these effectors (296/311)
98 do not induce a hypersensitive response (HR) when expressed alone or co-expressed with *Rpi*-
99 *amr3*; Fourteen effectors are auto-active in *N. benthamiana*, and we found PITG_21190
100 specifically induces an HR with *Rpi-amr3* (Figure 2A and Table S3), therefore we concluded
101 that PITG_21190 is *Avramr3*. *Avramr3* encodes a 339-aa protein with a signal peptide followed
102 by RXLR, EER motifs and four predicted WY motifs (Win et al., 2012) (Figure 2C). To
103 characterize the expression profile of *Avramr3*, eight *P. infestans* isolates (T30-4, 88069,
104 NL01096, 06_3928A, 6_A1, EC1, US23 and 99183) were used to inoculate a susceptible
105 potato cultivar Maris Piper, RNA was isolated 2 days after the infection for RT-PCR. Our data
106 shows that *Avramr3* are expressed in all eight isolates at 2 days after infection (Figure
107 S1A).

108

109 Many RXLR effectors are encoded by fast-evolving, multiple-member family genes with
110 extensive sequence polymorphism, such as the *Avr2* and *Avrblb2* families (Gilroy et al., 2011;
111 Oliva et al., 2015). To study the sequence polymorphism of *Avramr3*, seventeen additional
112 *Avramr3* homologs from eleven isolates were identified from published databases (KR_1,
113 3928A, EC1, 6_A1 and US23) (Lee et al., 2020; Lin et al., 2020) or cloned by PCR (EC1,
114 NL01096, NL14538, 88069, PIC99183 and PIC99177) (Fig. S2). The sequence alignment
115 shows *Avramr3* is a highly conserved RXLR effector among *P. infestans* isolates, with only
116 two polymorphic amino acids found among the eighteen AVRamr3 homologs (Figure S2).

117

118 To define the domain responsible for recognition by Rpi-amr3, ten truncated *Avramr3*
119 fragments were fused with HIS-FLAG tags and cloned into an expression vector with 35S
120 promoter (T1 to T10, Figure 2C, Figure S3), and transiently co-expressed with *Rpi-amr3* in *N.*
121 *benthamiana*. Six AVRamr3 truncations (T1, T2, T5, T6, T7 and T9) cannot be recognized by
122 Rpi-amr3 (Figure 2B). The protein levels of HIS-FLAG tagged T6 and T7 are lower than others
123 (Figure S3A), therefore we generated GFP-tagged constructs. The expression of T6-GFP is
124 comparable with AVRamr3-GFP, but T7-GFP is not stable (Figure S3B and C). We found
125 four AVRamr3 truncations (T3, T4, T8 and T10) can be recognized by Rpi-amr3. T10 (111-
126 240 aa) which carries the 2nd and 3rd WY motifs is the minimal region to be recognized by Rpi-
127 amr3 but not the adjacent T9 protein (130-258 aa) (Figure 2B). This suggests these 130 amino-
128 acids of AVRamr3 T10 are sufficient for recognition by Rpi-amr3 and initiation of HR.

129

130 **Rpi-amr3 is dependent on the helper NLRs NRC2, NRC3 and NRC4**

131

132 In Solanaceae, the functionality of many CC-NLR proteins requires helper NLR proteins of the
133 NRC class (Wu et al., 2017). To test if *Rpi-amr3* is NRC-dependent, we co-expressed *Rpi-*

134 *amr3* and *Avramr3* in NRC knockout *N. benthamiana* lines (*nrc2/3_1.3.1*, *nrc4_185.9.1.3*,
135 *nrc2/3/4_210.4.3*)(Adachi et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2020; Witek et al., 2021), as with wild-type
136 *N. benthamiana*. We found HR on the *nrc2/3_1.3.1* and *nrc4_185.9.1.3* knockout lines, but not
137 the *nrc2/3/4_210.4.3* knockout lines. Similarly, only *nrc2/3/4_210.4.3* knockout lines show
138 susceptibility to *P. infestans* after *Rpi-amr3* transient expression (Figure S4). These data
139 suggest both *Rpi-amr3*-mediated effector recognition and resistance is supported by either
140 NRC2, NRC3 or NRC4.

141

142 ***Rpi-amr3* associates with AVR*amr3* in planta**

143

144 To date, most Rpi proteins recognize their cognate effectors in an indirect manner, apart from
145 the RB and IPI-O effectors (Chen et al., 2012; Zhao and Song, 2021). To test the interaction
146 between *Rpi-amr3* and AVR*amr3*, *Rpi-amr3::HA* and AVR*amr3::HIS-FLAG* epitope-tagged
147 constructs were generated and transiently co-expressed in *nrc2/3/4* knockout *N. benthamiana*
148 leaves to avoid cell death. Protein was then extracted, and bi-directional co-
149 immunoprecipitation (Co-IPs) were performed. These co-IPs indicate that *Rpi-amr3* associates
150 with AVR*amr3* bidirectionally (Figure 2D). We also tested their interaction using a split-
151 luciferase assay. *Rpi-amr3::Cluc* and AVR*amr3::Nluc* constructs were generated and
152 transiently expressed in the *nrc2/3/4* knockout *N. benthamiana*. Luciferase signal was only
153 detected when *Rpi-amr3::Cluc* and AVR*amr3::Nluc* were co-expressed (Figure 2E), but not in
154 the negative controls. These data suggest *Rpi-amr3* associates with AVR*amr3* *in-planta*,
155 though do not exclude the possible involvement of additional proteins.

156

157 ***Avramr3* orthologs occur in multiple *Phytophthora* species**

158

159 To study the evolution of *Avramr3* in *Phytophthora* species, we searched for *Avramr3*
160 homologs from published *Phytophthora* and *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* (Hpa) genomes.
161 Surprisingly, we found *Avramr3* homologs in many *Phytophthora* genomes, including *P.*
162 *parasitica*, *P. cactorum*, *P. palmivora*, *P. pluvialis*, *P. megakarya*, *P. lichii*, *P. ramorum*, *P.*
163 *lateralis*, *P. sojae*, *P. capsici*, *P. cinnamomi*, and in *H. arabidopsidis*. Most of the *Avramr3*
164 homologs are located at a syntenic locus (Figure 3A). Notably, the *P. infestans* *Avramr3*-
165 containing contig was not fully assembled, it lacks sequences on the 5' side of *Avramr3* (Fig.
166 3a).

167
168 To test if those AVR*Amr3* homologs from different *Phytophthora* species are also recognized
169 by Rpi-*amr3*, we synthesized and cloned them into an expression vector with the 35S promoter,
170 and performed transient expression assays in *N. benthamiana*. Expressing the effectors alone
171 does not trigger HR in *N. benthamiana* (Figure 3B), but AVR*Amr3* homologs from *P.*
172 *parasitica*, *P. cactorum*, *P. palmivora*, *P. megakarya*, *P. lichii*, *P. sojae*, *P. lateralis* and *P.*
173 *pluvialis* can induce HR when co-expressed with Rpi-*amr3* respectively. The AVR*Amr3*
174 homolog from *P. cinnamomi* triggers a weaker HR compared to other recognized AVR*Amr3*
175 homologs, and the AVR*Amr3* homologs from *P. ramorum*, *P. capsici*, and *H. arabidopsidis*
176 (Figure 3C) do not trigger Rpi-*amr3*-dependent HR. All these AVR*Amr3* homologs carry
177 multiple WY motifs, but many polymorphic amino acids are present among these homologs.
178 We then predicted the structures of all AVR*Amr3* homologs by AlphaFold, and compared their
179 T10 regions with AVR*Amr3*. We found that the T10 regions of most recognized AVR*Amr3*
180 homologs fold into a structure similar to AVR*Amr3* from *P. infestans* (Figure S5). These data
181 suggest that Rpi-*amr3* recognizes a conserved fold of these AVR*Amr3* homologs from different
182 *Phytophthora* species.

183

184 To test if other recognized AVR_{amr3} homologs also directly interact with Rpi-amr3, we
185 performed co-immunoprecipitation and split-luciferase assays in *nrc2/3/4_210.4.3* knockout
186 lines. We found all the recognized AVR_{amr3} homologs associate with Rpi-amr3 by co-
187 immunoprecipitation, although with varied affinity. Two unrecognized AVR_{amr3} homologs
188 from *P. capsici* and *H. arabidopsidis* do not associate with Rpi-amr3. However, two
189 unrecognized or weakly recognized AVR_{amr3} homologs from *P. ramorum* and *P. cinnamomi*
190 also associate with Rpi-amr3, and the unrecognized AVR_{amr3}-T9 truncation shows a weak
191 association (Figure S6). In contrast, the output of split-luciferase assay is fully consistent with
192 the HR assay (Figure S7). These data indicate that an *in-planta* receptor-ligand association is
193 necessary but might not be sufficient for the activation of Rpi-amr3 and triggering of HR.

194

195 ***Rpi-amr3* confers resistance to multiple *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora* strains in *N.***
196 ***benthamiana***

197

198 Previously, we showed that *Rpi-amr3* confers resistance against potato late blight caused by
199 multiple *P. infestans* isolates (Figure 1 and Table S2). Its broad effector recognition capacity
200 suggested *Rpi-amr3* might confer resistance against additional *Phytophthora* pathogens.

201

202 To test this hypothesis, two *Rpi-amr3* stable transformed *N. benthamiana* T2 lines #13.3 and
203 #16.5 were used to evaluate *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora* resistance. Both these pathogens
204 have a wide host range, including the model plant *N. benthamiana*.

205

206 Six *P. parasitica* isolates (R0, R1, 310, 666, 329 and 721) were tested on *N. benthamiana*
207 carrying *Rpi-amr3*, and on wild-type *N. benthamiana* plants as negative control. These plants
208 were phenotyped for wilting symptoms. A suspension of zoospores was used for root

209 inoculation. We found both *N. benthamiana* – *Rpi-amr3* lines were resistant to three *P.*
210 *parasitica* isolates R1, 666 and 721, but were susceptible to R0, 310 and 329 (Figure 4). In
211 summary, *Rpi-amr3* confers resistance against three out of six tested *P. parasitica* isolates in
212 *N. benthamiana*.

213

214 To study the *PpAvramr3* polymorphism in different *P. parasitica* isolates, the *PpAvramr3*
215 homologs from the six *P. parasitica* isolates were PCR amplified, sub-cloned and sequenced.
216 *PpAvramr3* homologs were identified from R0, R1 and 310, 666 and 721, but not from 329
217 (Figure S8). To test if *Rpi-amr3* can recognize other *PpAVRamr3* alleles, the T10 region of
218 *Pp666-c2* was synthesized and cloned into an expression vector. The *Pp666-c2* induces HR
219 when co-expressed with *Rpi-amr3* (Figure S8 and S9B). These data suggest the presence of
220 recognized *AVRamr3* homologs from *Phytophthora* pathogens is necessary but not sufficient
221 to induce *Rpi-amr3* mediated resistance.

222

223 We tested an additional broad host range *Phytophthora* pathogen, *P. palmivora*, which causes
224 major losses on many tropical tree crops like papaya, mango, cacao, coconut and palm tree.
225 We tested seven *P. palmivora* isolates on the two *Rpi-amr3* transgenic *N. benthamiana* lines
226 by root inoculation followed by phenotyping for wilting. Wild-type *N. benthamiana* was used
227 as a control. We found *Rpi-amr3* confers resistance to three out of seven tested *P. palmivora*
228 isolates, including 7551, 7547, 7545, but not to 3914, 7548. For two other isolates 0113 and
229 3738, inconsistent results were obtained from the two *Rpi-amr3* transgenic lines (Figure 5). To
230 verify the presence of *Avramr3* homologs in these tested *P. palmivora* isolates, we PCR-
231 amplified the *Avramr3* homologs from genomic DNA of the seven *P. palmivora* isolates. All
232 the tested *P. palmivora* strains carry *PpalAvramr3* variants (Figure S9), and we found *Rpi-*
233 *amr3* can recognize the T10 region from all these *PpalAVRamr3* variants (Figure S9). Taken

234 together, *Rpi-amr3* confers resistance to at least 3/7 tested *P. palmivora* isolates in the root
235 inoculation assay.

236

237 ***Rpi-amr3* is widely distributed in *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum***

238

239 Though susceptible accessions can be identified in detached leaf assays, most *S. americanum*
240 and *S. nigrum* accessions show complete resistance in the field to *P. infestans*. Previously,
241 many functional *Rpi-amr1* alleles were cloned from different *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum*
242 accessions (Witek et al., 2021).

243

244 The identification of AVR_{amr3} allows us to investigate the distribution of *Rpi-amr3* from all
245 *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum* accessions. In total, 54 *S. americanum* accessions and 26 *S.*
246 *nigrum* accessions were tested by agro-infiltration with AVR_{amr3} for detecting functional *Rpi-*
247 *amr3*. We found 43/54 tested *S. americanum* accessions show HR after AVR_{amr3} agro-
248 infiltration (Figure 6A). Similarly, 21/26 tested *S. nigrum* accessions recognize AVR_{amr3}
249 (Figure 6B).

250

251 To further investigate the sequence polymorphism of *Rpi-amr3* from different accessions, the
252 *Rpi-amr3* homologs from 15 additional accessions were extracted from PacBio RenSeq dataset
253 (Witek et al., 2021), including 12 accessions (SP2300, SP1101, SP1123, SP2273, SP3409,
254 SP2307, SP3406, SP3408, SP2272, SP3399, SP2360 and SP3400) which respond to AVR_{amr3}
255 and 3 accessions (SP1032, SP2271 and SP2275) that do not respond to AVR_{amr3}.

256

257 To test the functionality of *Rpi-amr3* from *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum*, *Rpi-amr3* homologs
258 were PCR amplified from gDNA of three *S. americanum* accessions SP2272, SP2273 and

259 SP3406, and from gDNA of two *S. nigrum* accessions SP1088 and SP1084. *Rpi-amr3* alleles
260 (*Rpi-nig3* hereafter) were amplified from each of these two *S. nigrum* accessions and cloned
261 into an expression vector with 35S promoter. We found all the seven *Rpi-amr3/Rpi-nig3* genes
262 can recognize AVR_{amr3} in transient assays (Figure 6D), but not the negative control AVR_{amr1}.
263 Compared to *Rpi-amr3* from SP1102, the amino-acid identity ranges from 82.2% to 95.7%
264 (Figure 6C). Premature stop codons were found in *Rpi-amr3* homologs from SP2271 and
265 SP2275 (Figure S10), which result in loss of *Rpi-amr3* function.

266

267 Taken together, these data suggest *Rpi-amr3* gene is widely distributed in diploid *S.*
268 *americanum* and hexaploid *S. nigrum*, it contributes to their resistance to *P. infestans* and
269 perhaps other *Phytophthora* pathogens.

270

271 **Discussion**

272

273 We show here that *Rpi-amr3* from *S. americanum* can protect potato against late blight disease
274 in the field and confers resistance to all tested *Phytophthora infestans* isolates in lab condition.
275 Furthermore, by screening an effector library of 311 RXLR effectors, we identified and
276 characterized a novel effector AVRamr3 (PITG_21190) that is recognized by Rpi-amr3.
277 Although the effector library covers nearly all expressed RXLR effectors in *P. infestans* (Lin
278 et al., 2020), conceivably Rpi-amr3 could recognize additional RXLR effectors. AVRamr3 is
279 highly conserved and expressed in all tested *P. infestans* isolates during infection. These
280 findings indicate that *Rpi-amr3* might confer broad-spectrum late blight resistance.

281

282 Using AVRamr3 as a probe, we found *Rpi-amr3* is widely distributed in *S. americanum* and *S.*
283 *nigrum* species (Witek et al., 2021) (Figure 6A and 6B). We noticed that PITG_21190
284 (AVRamr3) was found to trigger HR in many *S. nigrum* accessions in a large-scale effector
285 screening study (Dong, 2016), consistent with our finding, and went on to clone and verify
286 functional *Rpi-amr3* homologs from *S. nigrum* and *S. americanum* accessions (Figure 6D). The
287 wide distribution of *Rpi-amr3* in these species suggests that *Rpi-amr3*, perhaps with other *Rpi*
288 genes like *Rpi-amr1*, underpin their strong resistance against late blight.

289

290 In the “arms race” between plants and pathogens, the RXLR effectors are usually considered
291 to be fast-evolving molecules (Dong et al., 2015). However, *Avramr3* homologs were identified
292 in twelve additional *Phytophthora* and *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* genomes. There are
293 extensive sequence variations among these AVRamr3 homologs, but surprisingly, nine out of
294 thirteen tested AVRamr3 homologs are recognized by Rpi-amr3 and lead to strong HR in *N.*
295 *benthamiana*. All the AVRamr3 homologs carry multiple WY motifs, which were proposed to

296 be the functional units of RXLR effectors (He et al., 2019). These effectors might fold into
297 similar structures despite high sequence diversity (Outram et al., 2022). Here we show that the
298 predicted AVR_{amr3} structures from different *Phytophthora* species indeed share a common
299 fold, although this structure cannot fully explain their recognition specificity, and sequence
300 polymorphisms might also determine their recognizability by Rpi-amr3.

301

302 Some plant NLRs that recognize widely conserved effectors/effector epitopes are reported to
303 confer broad broad-spectrum resistance. Sw-5b from tomato confers broad-spectrum
304 tospovirus resistance by recognizing a conserved, 21-amino acid epitope NSm²¹ which derives
305 from the viral movement protein NSm (Zhu et al., 2017). Similarly, the ETI mediated by two
306 conserved NLRs CAR1 and ZAR1 from *Arabidopsis thaliana* confer resistance to 94.7%
307 *Pseudomonas syringae* strains (Laflamme et al., 2020). To connect the effector recognition and
308 disease resistance of Rpi-amr3, we tested *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora* on Rpi-amr3
309 transgenic *N. benthamiana*. These pathogens cause dramatic yield losses of many crops from
310 different plant families (Meng et al., 2014; Ali et al., 2017), like tobacco black shank disease
311 and cacao black pod disease. Importantly, we found Rpi-amr3 confers resistance against some
312 but not all *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora* isolates (Figure 4 and Figure 5). Although many
313 resistance resources have been identified or genetically mapped, this is the first report of cloned
314 R genes against *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora*, and their cognate Avr effectors (Kourelis et
315 al., 2021). However, we cannot rule out the possibility that Rpi-amr3 also recognizes additional
316 effectors in *P. parasitica* and *P. palmivora*, and this should be tested in future investigations.
317 *P. parasitica* is becoming a more severe pathogen in many crops, correlated with global climate
318 change. For example, it can cause potato tuber rot and foliar disease at high temperatures.
319 Identification of R genes that confer resistance to both *P. infestans* and *P. parasitica* could
320 therefore restrict losses to these pathogens in a warmer world (Panabières et al., 2016).

321 Additionally, in nature, many *Phytophthora* pathogens can co-inoculate the host and
322 interspecific hybridization might occur (Goss et al., 2011), and natural hybrids of *P. parasitica*
323 and *P. cactorum* were also found on infected loquat trees (Hurtado-Gonzales et al., 2017). An
324 *R* gene that provides protection against both foliar and root *Phytophthora* pathogens of
325 different species would be extremely valuable. However, some *Rpi-amr3*-breaking *P.*
326 *parasitica* and *P. palmivora* strains were also identified in this study, although most of them
327 carry the recognized AVRamr3 homologs. This might be caused by silencing of the recognized
328 effector gene, as in the case of the silencing of *Avrvnt1* to evade recognition by Rpi-vnt1, or
329 due to other suppressors or regulators like AVRcap1b or splicing regulatory (SRE) effectors
330 (Pais et al., 2018; Huang et al., 2020; Derevnina et al., 2021).

331
332 Thus, *Rpi-amr3* could be deployed in Solanaceae crops like potato, tomato and tobacco against
333 different *Phytophthora* diseases. However, whether *Rpi-amr3* could be used in other crops of
334 other plant families remain unclear. Interfamily transfer of *NLR* genes remains a challenge as
335 some *NLR* genes show “restricted taxonomic functionality” (Tai et al., 1999). Therefore, to
336 investigate the mechanism of AVRamr3 recognition and Rpi-amr3 activation, we showed that
337 Rpi-amr3 is a “sensor” NLR that requires “helper” NLRs NRC2, NRC3 and NRC4 in *N.*
338 *benthamiana* (Figure S4). This enabled us to reveal the association between Rpi-amr3 and
339 AVRamr3 homologs in *planta*. Interaction between Rpi protein and their recognized RXLR
340 effector was rarely reported, except for RB and IPI-O effectors (Chen et al., 2012; Zhao and
341 Song, 2021). Surprisingly, the association has not led to accelerated evolution of AVRamr3 to
342 evade detection, as we also observed for Rpi-amr1 and AVRamr1 (Lin et al., 2020; Witek et
343 al., 2021). This could predispose *Rpi-amr3* to function in different plant species. In a
344 companion paper, we show that Rpi-amr3 activates NRC2 to form a high-molecular weight,
345 resistosome-like complex upon AVRamr3 recognition (Ahn et al., 2022). Consistent with our

346 pathogen assay of *P. parasitica*, PpAVRamr3 recognition also leads to NRC2 oligomerization,
347 but not the un-recognized AVRamr3 homolog from *P. capsici* (Ahn et al., 2022). These
348 findings indicate that co-delivery of *Rpi-amr3* and *NRC* genes might be required to elevate
349 resistance to these *Phytophthora* diseases in plant families that lack *NRC* genes.

350 In summary, this study reveals that *Rpi-amr3* is a conserved *R* gene from *S. americanum* and
351 its relatives. The recognition of the conserved AVRamr3 effectors enables resistance against
352 several different *Phytophthora* pathogens. This finding shows great potential for resistance
353 enhancement in many crop plants such as tobacco, cacao, soybean and strawberry against
354 different *Phytophthora* diseases.

355 **Methods**

356 **RXLR effector libraries**

357 The list of RXLR effector libraries is shown in Table S3. *Rpi-amr3* with its native promoter
358 and terminator (Witek et al., 2016) was co-expressed with individual effectors in *N.*
359 *benthamiana* by agro-infiltration. The HR phenotype was scored three days after the agro-
360 infiltration. OD₆₀₀ = 0.5.

361

362 **Plant materials**

363 The plant materials used in this study are listed in Table S4, the *Nicotiana benthamiana*
364 NRC2/3, NRC4, and NRC2/3/4 knockout lines are described previously (Adachi et al., 2019;
365 Wu et al., 2020; Witek et al., 2021). *Rpi-amr3* under native promoter were transformed into
366 potato cv. Maris Piper, the protocol was described previously (Witek et al., 2016). Two
367 transgenic lines (SLJ24895-5C and SLJ24895-9A) were selected for the field trials. *N.*
368 *benthamiana-Rpi-amr3* transgenic lines were generated, full-length *Rpi-amr3* gene with its
369 native promoter and terminator was cloned into a binary vector, and used for the *N.*
370 *benthamiana* transformation (Witek et al., 2016), two homozygous T2 lines *Rpi-amr3*#13.3
371 and *Rpi-amr3*#16.5 were selected by detached leaves assays (DLA), 15 T2 plants of each *Rpi-*
372 *amr3*#13.3 and *Rpi-amr3*#16.5 lines were tested, and all are resistant to *P. infestans* isolate
373 88069. The wild-type, knockout and transgenic *N. benthamiana* were propagated in a
374 glasshouse, for the experiments, the plants were grown in a controlled environment room (CER)
375 with 22 °C, 45-65% humidity, and 16 hours photoperiod.

376

377 The *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum* accessions were collected from different seed banks (Table
378 S4), and the seeds were sowed and grown in a containment glasshouse for agro-infiltration
379 experiments.

380

381 **Potato late blight field trials**

382 The field trials were performed in Norwich Research Park (NR4 7UH, Norwich, UK) from
383 April to October 2017 and 2018. For the 2017 field trial, six plants (clones) were planted per

384 genotype per block. The trial included three blocks and the location of the genotypes was
385 randomized within each block following a randomized complete block design. In total,
386 eighteen plants were used for each line. The guard plants (Potato cv. Desiree) were planted in
387 April, the transgenic and control lines were propagated from tissue culture, and grown in a
388 glasshouse, the plantlets were transplanted to the field in July. In August, natural infections
389 were observed and we also inoculated the plants with infected material from a nearby allotment.
390 The scoring started when the control plants began to show late blight symptoms. The scorings
391 were taken twice a week until the control lines reached 100% severity. The scoring of disease
392 severity was described previously (Cruickshank et al., 1982). In October, the tubers were
393 harvested from each block and the tuber numbers and yields were measured.

394
395 To genotype the field isolates, samples were taken and genotyped by David Cooke's group at
396 James Hutton Institute. Most isolates from the field including 2017_NR47UK and
397 2017_NR94HH were 6_A1 (aka Pink6), but 36_A2 was also detected in one sample. Both
398 isolates are prevalent in Europe.

399
400 In 2018, SLJ24895-5C was tested again in the field, following the same randomized complete
401 block design. In this case, the plantlets taken to the field were grown from tubers in the
402 glasshouse, instead of being propagated from tissue culture. Due to weeks of hot and dry
403 weather, the natural infection did not occur as expected. Therefore, artificial inoculations were
404 performed three times (3rd August, 9th August, and 10th August) with isolate 2017_NR94HH
405 (6_A1). This isolate was sampled in 2017 from the infected material used to inoculate the trial.
406 The artificial inoculations were performed by spraying the guard plants with 34 mL-84 mL
407 inoculum of 50,000-70,000 zoospores/mL. The first clear symptom of late blight appeared in
408 the guard plants on 14th August 2018.

409

410 **Pathogens and disease test**

411 The pathogens used in this study are listed in Table S5. *Phytophthora infestans* isolates were
412 used for the *P. infestans* disease test, they were propagated and maintained on rye sucrose agar
413 (RSA) medium in an 18°C incubator, ice-cold water was used to induce zoospores from 7-14
414 days old plates. The plate was then incubated at 4 °C for an hour then the zoospores suspension
415 was collected and 10 µL inoculum was used for detached leaf assay (10,000/mL - 20,000/mL

416 zoospores). For the detached leaf assay of *Rpi-amr3* transgenic potatoes, leaves from 8-10
417 weeks old potato plants were used for the detached leaf assay (DLA), the lesion diameter was
418 measured by a caliper, and the data was visualized and analyzed in R (4.1.1). One-way
419 ANOVA and Tukey's HST test were used for examining the statistical differences.

420

421 Both *Phytophthora parasitica* and *Phytophthora palmivora* isolates were propagated and
422 maintained in V8 plates in a 25°C incubator. To produce the zoospore from *P. palmivora*, 7-
423 10 days old plates were flooded with 4 °C water and incubated at 4 °C for 1h, then moved to
424 room temperature for another 1h, the released zoospores were counted by a hemocytometer,
425 30,000/mL - 50,000/mL zoospores were used for the root inoculation, 1 mL zoospore
426 suspension was added to the root. For *P. parasitica*, 10 day old plate was flooded with 0.1%
427 KNO₃ solution, incubated at 25°C for 2 days in the dark, then incubated at 4 °C for 1 hour and
428 25 °C for another 1h to release the zoospores. 3 - 4 weeks of wild-type or *Rpi-amr3* transgenic
429 *N. benthamiana* plants were used in the disease test, they were grown in a CER, and the
430 inoculated plants were grown in a Sanyo cabinet with 25 °C and 16 h photoperiod, the root
431 inoculation experiment takes 4-7 days, the scoring was taken when the wild-type *N.*
432 *benthamiana* plants were infected completely.

433

434 **RT-PCR**

435 The *P. infestans* zoospores were used to infect leaves from a potato cultivar Maris Piper, the
436 infected tissues were samples 2 and 3 days after inoculation. RNA was isolated from these
437 tissues by RNeasy mini Kit (QIAGEN, Cat:74104), and the gDNA was removed by TURBO
438 DNA-free kit (ThermoFisher, Cat:AM1907). cDNA was synthesized by Superscript IV
439 Transcriptase kit (ThermoFisher, Cat: 18090010) for RT-PCR (40 cycles). The primers are
440 shown in Table S8.

441 **Genomic and sequence analysis**

442 The *Phytophthora* genomes used in this study are listed in Table S6. The genomes were
443 imported into Geneious R10 (Kearse et al., 2012), and local BLAST databases were generated.
444 The *Avramr3* homologs containing contigs were identified by BLAST, then *Avramr3* loci were
445 extracted with flanking sequences. All the *Avramr3* loci were re-annotated by the gene
446 prediction tool in EumicrobeDB (http://www.eumicrobedb.org/eumicrobedb/gene_predict.php).
447 Then the GenBank (.gb) file was exported and visualized by Clinker
448 (<https://github.com/gamcil/clinker>) (Gilchrist and Chooi, 2021). All other sequences were
449 analyzed in Geneious R10. All sequence alignments were performed by MAFFT (Katoh and
450 Standley, 2013). The phylogenetic tree was generated by IQ-tree (v1.6.12) (Minh et al., 2020),
451 546 protein models were tested and JTT+G4 was selected as the best-fit model, 1000 samples
452 were generated for the ultrafast bootstrap analysis.

453

454 **Molecular cloning and constructs used in this study**

455

456 All constructs, primers, and synthesized fragments that were used in this study are listed in
457 Table S7, S8 and S9. In brief, the *Rpi-amr3* CDS were cloned into golden gate level 0 entry
458 vector pICSL01005, then fused with C-HA (pICSL50009), C-GFP (pICSL50008) or C-Flag-
459 Nluc (pICSL500047) tags and recombined into level 1 vector pICSL86977OD with 35S
460 promoter and Ocs Terminator. All the *Avramr3* homologs from different *Phytophthora* species,
461 were synthesized based on their reference genomes, the signal peptides were removed, and
462 BsaI and BpiI sites were domesticated to facilitate the golden gate cloning, the sequences are
463 listed in Table S9. All the *Avramr3* homologs and truncated *Avramr3* were cloned into level 0
464 entry vector pICSL01005, then fused with C-HIS-FLAG (pICSL50001) or C-Flag-Cluc
465 (pICSL500048) tags. The *Rpi-amr3/Rpi-nig3* homologs from *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum*

466 were amplified by nested PCR and cloned into level 1 vector pICSL86922OD containing a 35S
467 promoter and Ocs Terminator. GenBank accession numbers: OP020886-OP020892.

468

469 For potato transformation, *Rpi-amr3* with its native promoter and terminator were cloned into
470 vector pAGM31195 and transformed into *Agrobacterium* strain AGL1 for plant transformation.
471 For generating the *Rpi-amr3* transgenic *N. benthamiana* lines, *Rpi-amr3* with its native
472 promoter and terminator was cloned into USER vector pICSLUS0001OD (Witek et al., 2021),
473 and shuffled into *Agrobacterium* strain AGL1 for plant transformation. The *N. benthamiana*
474 plants were propagated in a glasshouse, two homozygous T2 lines were selected for the
475 *Phytophthora* disease test.

476

477 **Agro-infiltration**

478 All the over-expression constructs were shuffled into *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101-pMP90,
479 and they are stored in a -80 °C freezer with 20% glycerol. The *Agrobacterium* were streaked
480 out on solid L medium with antibiotics and incubated at 28 °C for two days, then the
481 *Agrobacterium* were re-suspended into infiltration buffer (MgCl₂-MES, 10mM MgCl₂, and
482 10mM MES, pH 5.6) with 1 mM acetosyringone and used for agro-infiltration, OD₆₀₀ = 0.5.

483

484 **Western blot and co-immunoprecipitation**

485 The Western blot and co-immunoprecipitation protocols were described previously (Guo et al.,
486 2020). In brief, 35S::*Rpi-amr3*::HA or 35S::*Rpi-amr3*::GFP, 35S::*Avramr3*::HIS-FLAG or
487 other *Avramr3* homologs with C-HIS-FLAG tag were transiently co-expressed in *N.*
488 *benthamiana* nrc2/3/4 knockout line, OD₆₀₀ = 0.5. The leaves were sampled at 3 dpi and total
489 protein was extracted by GTAN buffer for co-immunoprecipitation. EZview™ Red Anti-HA
490 Affinity Gel (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat: E6779), Anti-Flag® M2 affinity gel (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat:

491 A2220), GFP-Trap Agarose (ChromoTek, Planegg-Martinsried, Germany) were used for the
492 immunoprecipitation, HRP conjugated HA antibodies (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat: H6533), HRP
493 conjugated anti-FLAG antibodies (Sigma, Cat: A8592) and HRP conjugated anti-GFP
494 antibodies (Santa Cruzm Cat: sc-9996HRP) were used for the Western blot. NuPage 4-12%
495 Bis-Tris protein gels (ThermoFisher, Cat: NP0302BOX) and MOPs SDS Running Buffer
496 (ThermoFisher, Cat: NP0001) were used for separating the protein.

497

498 **Split-luciferase assay**

499 The split-luciferase system was described previously (Chen et al., 2008). *Rpi-amr3* was fused
500 with 1x Flag::*C*-luciferase (Cluc) tag and *Avramr3* homologs were fused with 1x Flag::*N*-
501 luciferase (Nluc), the *Rpi-amr3*::Cluc and *Avramr3*::Nluc were transiently co-expressed in *N.*
502 *benthamiana* nrc2/3/4 knockout line by agro-infiltration. Three days after infiltration, 0.4 mM
503 luciferin on 100mM sodium citrate buffer (pH 5.6) was infiltrated into the leaves, then the
504 leaves were detached for imaging (NightOWL II LB 983 in Vivo Imaging System with
505 WinLight Software, BERTHOLD TECHNOLOGIES GmbH & Co KG, Germany). Two leaves
506 were used for each experiment, and three independent biological repeats were performed.
507 Western blots with HRP-FLAG antibodies were used for detecting the presence of the
508 recombinant protein.

509

510 **Protein Structure prediction**

511 The structure of AVRamr3 homologs was predicted by AlphaFold and ColabFold (Jumper et
512 al., 2021; Mirdita et al., 2022). The structures were visualized and aligned by PyMOL (The
513 PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 2.5.1 Schrödinger, LLC.) (Schrödinger, L. and
514 DeLano).

515

516 **Data availability**

517 *Avramr3* (GenBank: XM_002895186.1). All other sequence data will be submitted to NCBI
518 before publishing. All data and materials will be available from the corresponding author upon
519 request.

520

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521 Funding

522 This research was financed from BBSRC grant BB/P021646/1, BB/S018832/1,
523 BB/M017834/1 and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

524

525 Author contributions:

526 X.L. and J.D.G.J. designed the study. X.L., A.C.O.A., R.H., M.P., K.W., H.K.A, S.B., H.S.K.,
527 T.S., C.-H.W. and H.A. performed the experiments. X.L., A.C.O.A., R.H., M.P., and K.W.,
528 H.K.A, H.Z and S.B analysed the data. X.L. and J.D.G.J. wrote the manuscript with inputs
529 from all authors. S.K. and V.G.A.A.V. contributed resources. All authors approved the
530 manuscript.

531

532 Acknowledgements

533 We thank TSL transformation team (Matthew Smoker and Jodie Taylor), SynBio team (Mark
534 Youles), horticultural team (Sara Perkins, Justine Smith, Lesley Phillips and Catherine Taylor)
535 and field trial team (Cathy Mumford) for their support. We thank Experimental Garden and
536 Genebank of Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, IPK Gatersleben, Germany and
537 Sandra Knapp (Natural History Museum, London, UK) for access to *S. americanum* and *S.*
538 *nigrum* genetic diversity. We thank He Meng and Lirui Cheng from CAAS for kindly sharing
539 the *Phytophthora parasitica* isolates R0 and R1, and Franck Panabières from INRA for kindly
540 sharing the *Phytophthora parasitica* isolates 310, 329, 666 and 721. We thank Joe Win for
541 maintaining the *P. palmivora* strains. We thank Paul Birch and colleagues at James Hutton
542 Institute for making available clones of some of the effectors that were tested for AVRamr3
543 function. We thank David Cooke at James Hutton Institute for genotyping the *Phytophthora*

544 samples. We thank Yufei Li for sharing the gDNA of *P. capsici* and *P. sojae*. We thank Adam
545 Bentham from JIC for his helpful comments on protein structure prediction.

546 **Competing interests:**

547 K. W. and J.D.G.J. are named inventors on a patent application (PCT/US2016/031119)
548 pertaining to *Rpi-amr3* that was filed by the 2Blades Foundation on behalf of the Sainsbury
549 Laboratory. The other authors declare no competing interests.

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721

722 **Figures legends:**723 **Figure 1. *Rpi-amr3* confers late blight resistance in field and lab conditions.**

724

725 (A). Field trials of *Rpi-amr3* transgenic potato cultivar Maris Piper in 2017 (solid line) and 2018 (dotted line).
 726 Two wild-type Maris Piper lines (Maris Piper-A and Maris Piper-B) are shown by dark and light blue lines, and
 727 two *Rpi-amr3* transformants SLJ24895-5C and 9A are shown by orange and yellow lines. The X-axis indicates
 728 the days after planting, the first scoring was taken when the late blight symptoms were observed in the wild-type
 729 potatoes. The Y-axis indicates the severity of the late blight symptom. (B). The relative area under the disease
 730 progress curve (rAUDPC) is shown, and the colour codes are the same as in Fig. 1a. Data are mean \pm s.d., data
 731 were analyzed by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's test ($P < 0.001$). (C). Total tuber weight (Kg) per block. Data
 732 are mean \pm s.d., and the data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's test ($P < 0.001$). (D). Total tuber
 733 number per block. Data are mean \pm s.d., and data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's test ($P <$
 734 0.01). the colour codes are the same as Fig. 1a. (E). Detached leaf analysis (DLA) for *Rpi-amr3* transgenic potato
 735 cv. Maris Piper (SLJ24895-5C), wild-type Maris Piper and *Rpi-amr1* transgenic Maris Piper (SLJ25029) were
 736 used as controls. 100-200 zoospores from different *P. infestans* isolates were used for inoculation. The lesion
 737 diameter (mm) was scored by a calliper at 4 days post-inoculation (dpi). Two replicated were performed with
 738 similar results (red and blue dots), 24 data points were collected in total, and the outliers are indicated by black
 739 dots. The visualization and statistical analysis were performed in R. Statistical differences among the lines were
 740 analyzed one-way ANOVA with Tukey's HSD test ($P < 0.001$).

741

742 **Figure 2. Identification and characterization of AVRamr3.** (A). Co-expression of *Rpi-amr3::HA*
 743 and *AVRamr3::HIS-FLAG* trigger cell death on *N. benthamiana*, *Rpi-amr1* and *AVRamr1* were used as controls.
 744 The photos were taken 3 days after infiltration, *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101(pMP90) carrying *Rpi-amr3::HA* or
 745 *AVRamr3::HIS-FLAG* constructs were used in this experiment. $OD_{600}=0.5$. Three biological replicates were
 746 performed with the same results. (B). Co-expression of *Rpi-amr3::HA* and *AVRamr3* truncations. All truncations
 747 are tagged with a C-terminal HIS-FLAG tag. T3, T4, T8, and T10 trigger cell death when co-expressed with *Rpi-*
 748 *amr3*, but not T1, T2, T5, T6, T7, and T9. Full-length *AVRamr3::HIS-FLAG* was used as control. $OD_{600}=0.5$.
 749 Three biological replicates were performed with the same results. (C). Cartoon of *AVRamr3* (PITG_21190), a
 750 protein with 339 amino acids with a signal peptide (lemon), RXLR-EER motif (green), and an effector domain
 751 (red) with four predicted WY motifs (Details are shown in Fig. S4). T1-T10 indicates the *AVRamr3* truncations
 752 used in HR assays. Those that induce HR after co-expression with *Rpi-amr3* are marked by orange bars, otherwise
 753 by blue. (D). *Rpi-amr3::HA* and *AVRamr3::HIS-FLAG* constructs were used for a bidirectional co-
 754 immunoprecipitation experiment, with *Rpi-amr1::HA* and *AVRamr1::HIS-FLAG* used as control. After HA pull-
 755 down of *Rpi-amr3::HA* or *Rpi-amr1::HA*, only *AVRamr3::HIS-FLAG* is associated with *Rpi-amr3::HA*. After
 756 Flag pull-down of *AVRamr3::HIS-FLAG* or *AVRamr1::HIS-FLAG*, only *Rpi-amr3::HA* is associated with
 757 *AVRamr3::HIS-FLAG*. *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101(pMP90) carrying different constructs was used for
 758 transient expression in the *nrc2/3/4* knockout *Nicotiana benthamiana* line (210.4.3) to abolish the cell death
 759 phenotype. $OD_{600}=0.5$. Three biological replicates were performed with the same results. (E). *Rpi-amr3::Cluc* and
 760 *AVRamr3::Nluc* constructs were used to test their interaction *in planta*, *Rpi-amr1::Cluc* and *AVRamr1::Nluc*

761 were used as controls. The luciferase signal can only be detected upon Rpi-amr3::Cluc and AVRamr3::Nluc co-
 762 expression. The nrc2/3/4 knockout *Nicotiana benthamiana* line (210.4.3) was used to abolish the cell death
 763 phenotype.

764

765 **Figure 3. AVRamr3 is a conserved effector among different *Phytophthora* species.** (A). The
 766 synteny map of *Avramr3* loci from twelve different *Phytophthora* genomes. The *Avramr3* loci were extracted
 767 from different genomes, annotated by the gene prediction tool in EumicrobeDB, then analyzed and visualized by
 768 Clinker. *Avramr3* homologs are shown by purple triangles and indicated by a black arrow, the flanking genes with
 769 homology are represented by the corresponding colours. The *Phytophthora* clades are adapted from the
 770 *Phytophthora* database (Rahman et al., 2014). (B). Expression of AVRamr3 homologs with HIS-FLAG tag alone
 771 does not trigger cell death on *Nicotiana benthamiana*. *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101(pMP90) carrying different
 772 constructs was used in this experiment. OD₆₀₀=0.5. Three biological replicates were performed with the same
 773 results. (C). Co-expression of HIS-FLAG tagged AVRamr3 homologs with Rpi-amr3::GFP in *N. benthamiana*.
 774 The AVRamr3 homologs from *Phytophthora infestans* (Pi), *P. parasitica* (Pp), *P. cactorum* (Pc), *P. palmivora*
 775 (Ppal), *P. megakarya* (Pmeg), *P. litchi* (Plit), *P. sojae* (Ps), *P. lateralis* (Plat) and *P. pluvialis* (Pplu) induce cell
 776 death after co-expression with Rpi-amr3::GFP, but not AVRamr3 homologs from *P. ramorum* (Pr), *P. capsici*
 777 (Pcap) and *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* (Hpa). The AVRamr3 homolog from *P. cinnamomi* (Pcin) shows an
 778 intermediate cell death. *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101(pMP90) carrying different constructs was used in this
 779 experiment. OD₆₀₀=0.5. Three biological replicates were performed with the same results. The protein expression
 780 of the AVRamr3 homologs with HIS-FLAG tag was shown in Figure S6.

781

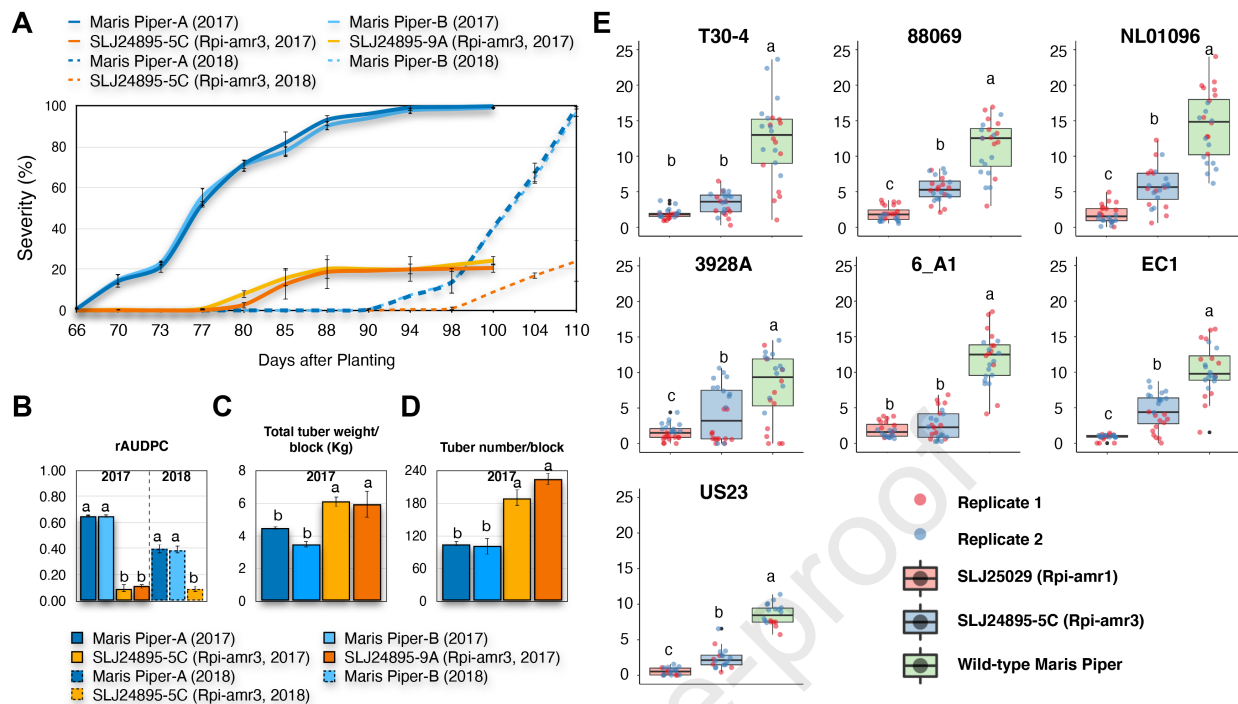
782 **Figure 4. Root inoculation of six *Phytophthora parasitica* isolates on *Rpi-amr3* transgenic**
 783 ***Nicotiana benthamiana* lines.** Representative photos for the *P. parasitica* root inoculation tests are shown.
 784 Two homozygous *N. benthamiana* - *Rpi-amr3* lines #13.3 and #16.5 were used in this experiment. Wild-type *N.*
 785 *benthamiana* plants were used as control. Six *P. parasitica* isolates were used for root inoculation, *Rpi-amr3*
 786 confers resistance against R1, 666 and 721, but not R0, 310 and 329. Three to four-week-old *N. benthamiana*
 787 were used for the root inoculation, three plants/lines were used for each experiment and at least three biological
 788 replicates were performed with similar results. The numbers indicate susceptible plants/total tested plants.

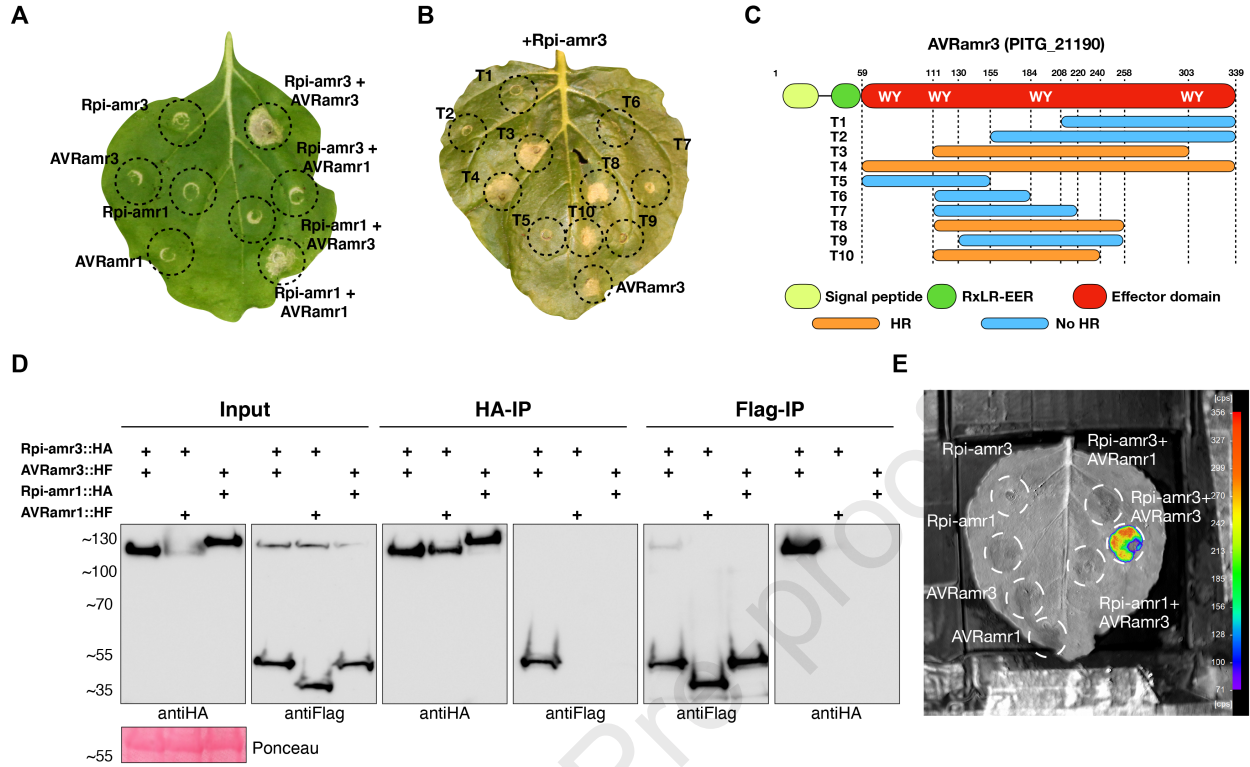
789

790 **Figure 5. Root inoculation of 7 *Phytophthora palmivora* isolates on *Rpi-amr3* transgenic**
 791 ***Nicotiana benthamiana* lines.** Two homozygous *N. benthamiana* - *Rpi-amr3* lines #13.3 and #16.5 were
 792 used in this experiment, and wild-type *N. benthamiana* were used as control. Seven *P. parasitica* isolates were
 793 used for root inoculation, *Rpi-amr3* confers resistance against isolates 7547, 7551 and 7545, but not 3914 and
 794 7548. For isolates 0113 and 3738, we obtained some variable results for the two transgenic lines. 3-4 week-old
 795 *N. benthamiana* were used for the root inoculation, 3 plants/lines were used for each experiment and three or more
 796 biological replicates were performed with similar results.

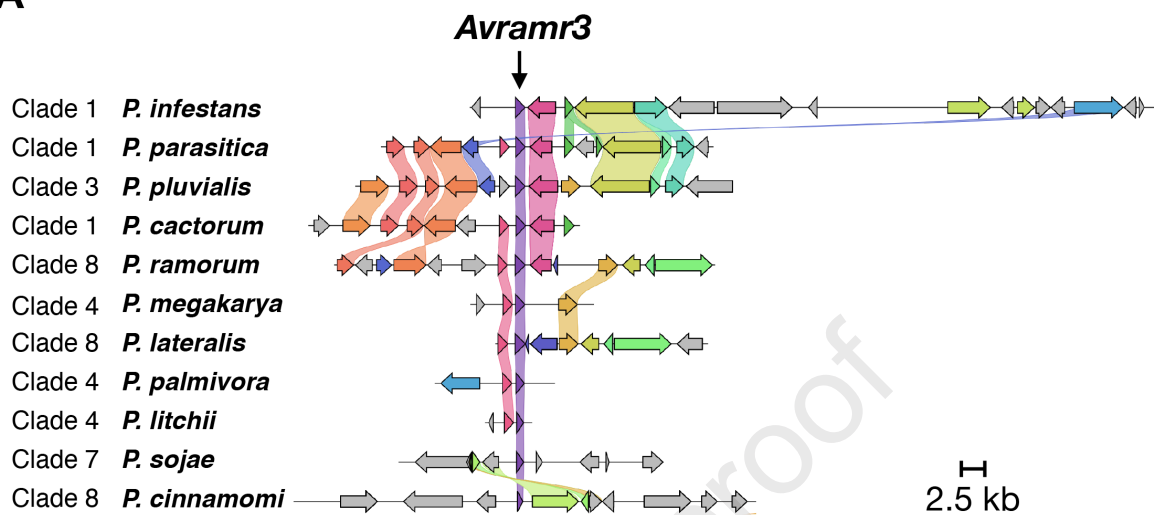
797

798 **Figure 6. Screen for AVRamr3 recognition on *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum* accessions.**
799 (A). 54 *S. americanum* accessions were screened with *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101(pMP90) carrying
800 35S::AVRamr3. The accessions with cell death upon agro-infiltration are marked by red, otherwise blue.
801 35S::HpaAVRamr3 was used as a negative control. (B). 26 *S. nigrum* accessions were screened with
802 *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101(pMP90) carrying 35S::AVRamr3. The accessions with cell death upon agro-
803 infiltration are marked by red, otherwise blue. 35S::HpaAVRamr3 was used as a negative control. (C). The
804 maximum likelihood (ML) tree of Rpi-amr3 and Rpi-nig3 proteins was made by iqtree with GTT+G4 model. The
805 *Rpi-amr3* homologs from *S. americanum* were extracted from PacBio RenSeq assemblies (Witek et al., 2021).
806 The four *Rpi-nig3* genes were PCR amplified from *S. nigrum* accession SP1088 and SP1084 (red). The non-
807 functional *Rpi-amr3* homologs were marked by blue. Rpi-amr3b from SP1102 is a paralogue of Rpi-amr3, which
808 was used as an outgroup of the phylogenetic analysis. The scale bar indicates the number of amino acid
809 substitutions per site. The protein identities of each homolog compared to Rpi-amr3 (Rpi-amr3-1102) are shown
810 by %. (D). Selected *Rpi-amr3* homologs (*Rpi-amr3-2272*, *Rpi-amr3-2273* and *Rpi-amr3-3406*) were cloned from
811 three *S. americanum* accessions SP2272, SP2273, and SP3406. Four *Rpi-nig3* homologs (*Rpi-nig3-1088a*, *Rpi-*
812 *nig3-1088b*, *Rpi-nig3-1084a* and *Rpi-nig3-1084b*) were cloned from *S. nigrum* accessions SP1088 and SP1084,
813 they were co-expressed with AVRamr3 or AVRamr1 (negative control) in *N. benthamiana*. All of them can
814 recognize AVRamr3 in the transient assay but not AVRamr1.
815
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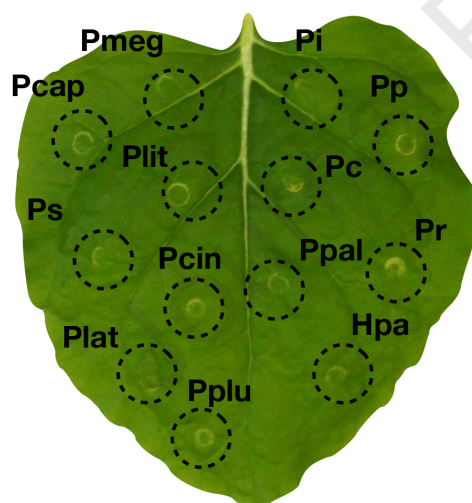


A



B

- Rpi-amr3



C

+ Rpi-amr3

